

XX.—On new Species of Histeridæ and Notices of others.

By G. LEWIS, F.L.S.

[Plate IX.]

THIS is the forty-first paper of this series, and it is chiefly concerned in giving a Plate illustrating some interesting species.

The measurements given by authors in this and other families, when only single specimens are available, are sometimes misleading—*e. g.*, I have now an example of *Platylister procerus* which measures $11\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and another of *Macro- lister robusticollis* which measures $12\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and a specimen of *Probolosternus africanus* of 9 mm. The original records were $8\frac{1}{2}$ –9, 9, and 7 mm. respectively. The size given of a species in the Histeridæ is only of an approximate value, but it is essential that an accurate standard should be maintained in using words such as *ovalis*, *oblongo-ovalis*, *subovalis*, *breviter-ovalis*, and other terms employed by describers in indicating the outline of a species.

List of Species, arranged generically.

Holepta salva.	Platysoma mimicum.
— comis.	Hister inflexus.
— optiva.	Althaus teretrioides, <i>Lew.</i>
— higonæ, <i>Lew.</i>	Pachylomalus falcatus.
Teretrius antelatus.	Epitoxus subruber.
Coptosternus, gen. nov.	— ascinus.
— tarsalis.	Heterius carinistrius, <i>Lew.</i>
Platylister procerus, <i>Lew.</i>	

Holepta salva, sp. n.

Oblonga, depressa, nigra, nitida; fronte leviter impressa, haud striata; pronoto stria marginali tenui; elytris striis, subhumerali utrinque abbreviata, 1–2 dorsalibus sat longis, 1 appendice recto; propygidio punctis sparsis cincto apice biimpresso; tibiis anticis 4-dentatis.

L. $10\frac{1}{2}$ mill. (absque mandibulis).

Oblong, depressed, black, and shining; the head very minutely, not closely punctulate, forehead slightly impressed; the thorax, marginal stria fine, except near the anterior angle; the fossette is nearly circular and close to the angle (more so than in *lucida*, *Lec.*), along the sides are a very few small and somewhat obscure scattered punctures; the elytra, sub-

humeral stria is wide in the middle and well shortened at both ends, first dorsal basal and well marked, with a rather long and straight appendage, with a puncture within its apical end, representing, perhaps, an appendage to the second stria, second stria also basal and half the length of the first; the propygidium is bi-impressed posteriorly, and in the impressions the punctures are somewhat close, on either side there are a few ocellate punctures, along the base and on the disc the punctures are very small and few; the pygidium is coarsely and densely punctate; the mentum is rather wide and the carina obscure, being seen only in certain lights; the prosternum is triangularly widened at the base and the anterior lobe is laterally striate; the anterior tibiæ are 4-dentate.

This species differs from all the known Asian species by the position of the thoracic fossettes; those of *H. dyak* are very similar, but the thoracic angle is emarginate and the fossette is behind the emargination.

Hab. Sikkim and Trichinopoly, India.

Hololepta comis, sp. n.

Oblongo ovalis, depressa, nigra, nitida; fronte bistriata; pronoto lateribus modice punctato; elytris stria 1 dorsali in medio evanescenti vel subiinterrupta; propygidio bifoveolato, circum grosse et minute punctato; pygidio dense punctato.
L. $7\frac{1}{2}$ mill. (absque mandibulis).

Oblong-oval, depressed, black, and shining; the head bistriate, with a very fine punctuation above; the thorax, lateral stria ceases after passing the anterior angle, within the stria in the median area there is a small cluster of punctures which are continued anteriorly in fewer and finer points; the elytra, subhumeral stria reaches the base, is very broad in the middle and a little shortened before the apex, first dorsal fine and broken or evanescent before the middle, second short, basal, with a very small appendage at the apex; the propygidium has two shallow foveæ punctate, the disc is smooth and surrounded with scattered punctures of various sizes, a few near the middle being the largest; the pygidium is densely punctate; the prosternum, keel narrow but triangularly wide at the base; the anterior tibiæ are 4-dentate, the two at the apex are robust and close together, the intermediate are 3-dentate, with the apical tooth bifid.

Hab. Congo River. One female example.

Hololepta optiva, sp. n.

Oblonga, depressa, nigra, nitida; fronte bistriata, minutissime punctulata; pronoto lateribus punctato; elytris stria 1 integris, 2 brevi appendice parvo aucta, 3 basali; propygidio antice lateribusque grosse, in medio tenuissime punctulato; pygidio dense punctato; prosterno angusto basi triangulatim dilatato.

L. $6\frac{1}{2}$ mill. (absque mandibulis).

Oblong, depressed, black, and shining; the head bistriate, surface very finely punctulate; the thorax, lateral stria rather fine, hamate behind the angle, with a narrow lateral band of punctures, some elongate or confluent in the median area and anteriorly behind the angle spread out somewhat; the elytra, subhumeral stria slightly abbreviated posteriorly, the first dorsal fine but distinctly complete, second short, also fine, and about one-fifth of the elytral length, with a very short apical appendage, third basal and scarcely visible; the propygidium bitoveolate and encircled with rather large punctures, some at the sides obscurely ocellate, the punctures inwardly diminish in size until those on the disc are few and very fine; the pygidium is densely punctate, some points being confluent; the prosternum, keel narrow, with a widened triangular base; the anterior tibiæ are 4-dentate, the apical teeth are obtuse and close together.

This is a very distinct species, but the male is unknown.

Hab. Ogoone, French Congo. One female example.

Hololepta hijonia, Lew., 1894.

I have an example of this species from Laos, Tonking. I found it originally in South Japan, and took it in considerable numbers.

Teretrius antelatus, sp. n.

Cylindricus, subelongatus, niger, nitidus, undique punctulatus; pronoto ad angulos obscure rufo; prosterno punctato, striis fere parallelis, antice forte marginato; mesosterno metasternoque sparse punctatis; pygidio haud transverso; tibiis anticis 7-8 denticulatis.

L. $3\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

Cylindrical, somewhat elongate, black, and shining; the head convex and finely punctulate; the thorax (and upper surface generally) more clearly and evenly punctulate, anterior angles obscurely reddish, marginal stria well marked at the sides and very fine behind the head; the pygidium is

longer and less transverse than that of *punctulatus*, Fährs., and others; the prosternum, the anterior lobe is markedly marginate, the lateral striæ are almost parallel, very slightly diverging anteriorly, keel and lobe rather coarsely, not closely punctate, with a line of punctures along the striæ; the mesosternum is also markedly marginate, and the surface and that of the metasternum sparingly punctulate; the anterior tibiæ are 7-8-denticulate.

This species is narrower (less robust) than *punctulatus*, Fährs., and the other chief distinguishing characters are the more strongly bordered anterior margin of the prosternum, and its striæ are more parallel, scarcely diverging anteriorly, and the punctures of the meso- and metasterna are larger.

Hab. Congo State.

COPTOSTERNUS, gen. nov.

This genus is founded to receive a single species from Madagascar which superficially somewhat resembles *Macrosternus*, but the body is less depressed, and the other characters which will not permit its inclusion in it are: the pygidium is convex, the prosternal keel is wide and truncate at both ends, the mesosternum is very broad and nearly straight (not sinuous) anteriorly, the anterior tibiæ are outwardly denticulate, tarsal groove not sinuous, and the tarsi are pilose beneath. The form of the forehead (without striæ) and the form of the thorax are very similar to those of *Macrosternus*; the dorsal sutural stria is bent like that of the American *Hister curvatus*, Er., but this being a character of many African species of *Hister*, it cannot be considered an important one.

Coptosternus tarsalis, sp. n.

Ovatus, depressus, niger, nitidus; fronte leviter impressa haud striata; pronoto lateribus punctulato, stria marginali integra; elytris striis 1-3 integris, 4-5 brevissimis, suturali subintegra arcuata; pygidio paulum convexo; tibiis anticis denticulato, tarsis hirsutis.

L. 6 mill.

Oval, depressed, black, and shining; the head slightly impressed anteriorly, not striate, surface sparsely punctulate; the thorax, marginal stria fine and complete, sides punctured like the head; the elytra without a subhumeral stria, dorsal striæ 1-3 complete, 4-5 very short and apical and nearly meet posteriorly, sutural bowed and slightly abbreviated at the base; the propygidium and pygidium are somewhat

closely but not coarsely punctured, the latter is slightly convex; the prosternum, keel is broad and flat and truncate at both ends, the lateral striæ are very fine and feebly sinuous before the coxæ, within the striæ and parallel to them is a very shallow channel, more conspicuous than the striæ and shortened a little at the base; the mesosternum is transverse and narrow, but relatively as broad as in *Macrosternus lafertei*, anteriorly it is almost straight, not sinuous, across the middle there is a bowed stria, somewhat fine, and it does not reach the outer edges; the anterior tibiæ are 10-11-denticulate and all the tarsi are distinctly hirsute.

Hab. Fianrantsoa, Madagascar.

Platylister procerus, Lew.

I have specimens of this species which measure $11\frac{1}{2}$ mm., as stated in the preamble; the mesosternal marginal stria is traceable in the type behind the emargination, but it is not so seen in other examples. The localities of the species are Kumaon, Sikkim, and Yunnan, and it has been found in the burrows of a longicorn in willows.

Platysoma mimicum, sp. n.

Oblongo-ovatum, convexiusculum, nigrum, nitidum; fronte stria late arcuata; pronoto stria integra, margine laterali parallela; elytris striis 1-3 integris, 4 parum abbreviata, 5 et suturali dimidiatis; pygidio transverso punctato apice lævi; prosterno angustato; mesosterno emarginato, stria integra.

L. $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

Oblong-oval, little convex, black, and shining; the head microscopically punctulate, stria complete, widely bowed from side to side; the thorax, lateral stria complete and rather close to the margin, strongest behind the head, with a small antescutellar puncture; the elytra, striæ 1-3 complete, 4 little shortened at the base, with a basal puncture, 5 and sutural dimidiate; the propygidium is rather coarsely and somewhat unevenly punctate, with a narrow posterior margin smooth; the pygidium has similar punctures transversely placed close to the base, leaving the apex widely smooth; the mesosternum strongly marginate, stria following the contour of the emargination and continuing laterally to the base of the metasternum, surface of the sterna microscopically punctulate; the anterior tibiæ are 5-denticulate.

The sculpture of the pygidia and the form of the thoracic stria resemble *P. pygidiale*, Lew., but this species has an oval outline.

Hab. Chambaganor, Madura, India.

Hister inflexus, sp. n.

Ovalis, convexus, niger, nitidus; fronte biimpressa punctulata; pronoto striis lateralibus integris; elytris striis 1-3 integris, suturali ante medium abbreviata; propygidio pygidioque sat dense et grosse punctatis; mesosterno sinuato conspicue marginatoque; tibiis anticis 5-dentatis.

L. $5\frac{1}{4}$ mill.

Oval, convex, black, and shining; the head, stria nearly straight anteriorly, surface and also the mandibles rather closely punctulate, behind the stria are two feeble impressions; the thorax is very feebly punctulate, with two lateral striæ, the external anteriorly passes the angle, internal is crenulate behind the head and not interrupted; the elytra, striæ, there is no subhumeral, 1-3 dorsal are complete, the first turns towards the second at the base, and the interstice between the second and third widens out anteriorly; the pygidia are somewhat closely punctate, and some of the punctures are ocellate, especially on the outer parts; the mesosternum is sinuous and markedly marginate, the marginal stria laterally does not quite reach the metasternal suture; the anterior tibiæ are 5-dentate, the two apical teeth are close together and have a common base.

This is only the fourth species of *Hister* recorded from Madagascar; *Hister goudoti* and *aquistrius*, Mars., are now assigned to *Atholus*.

Hab. Madagascar.

Athanus teretricoides, Lew. (Pl. IX. fig. 3.)

The tibiæ of this species are similar to many *Trypanæi*, but Mr. Arrow informs me that some of the Lamellicornes, such as *Parastasia* and its allies, also have similar tibiæ; so this structure need not disturb my systematic arrangement of the Histeridæ in placing it in the section with emarginate or sinuous mesosterna.

Pachylomalus falcatus, sp. n.

Ellipticus, convexus, niger, nitidus; *P. musculo* forma simillimis, at differt mesosterno utrinque arcuatum striato.

L. $2\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

Elliptical, convex, black, and shining, with the legs ferruginous, upper surface very finely punctulate, the marginal stria of the head fine and complete, thoracic antescutellar striæ oblique, the prosternal striæ are not inturned at the

base, the mesosternum has an arcuate stria on each side of the emargination, the transverse stria is moderately bowed.

In this genus *P. leo*, *tuberosus*, and *falcatus* have lateral mesosternal striæ, but they are not marginal. *P. mus*, *musculus*, *andrewesi*, and *victor* have only the transverse stria.

Hab. Montalvan, near Manila (*E. Simon*). Two female examples.

Epitoxus subruber, sp. n.

Suborbicularis, convexus, nitidus; fronte puncticulata stria antice late interrupta; pronoto lateribus punctato; elytris obscure rufis, striis 1-4 et suturali integris, 2 posterioribus basi arcuatim junctis, 5 in medio abbreviata; pygidio vix dense punctulato; tibiis 8-9-denticulatis.

L. $2\frac{3}{4}$ -3 mill.

Somewhat orbicular in outline, convex, with the legs and antennæ and the elytra (except on the disc) obscurely reddish; the head punctulate, stria well-marked laterally, widely interrupted in front; the thorax, marginal stria complete, sides distinctly punctured, disc very finely punctulate, scutellar impression obscurely biarcuate; the elytra minutely punctulate, striæ 1-4 and sutural complete, the two last joining at the base, 5 dimidiate; the pygidia are somewhat closely punctulate, the points varying in size; the prosternum bistriate, keel clearly (not thickly) punctured; the mesosternum, marginal stria complete, close to the edge and feebly crenulate, surface sparingly punctulate, transverse stria finely and evenly crenulate, surfaces of the metasternum and first abdominal segment punctulate; the anterior tibiæ 8-9-denticulate.

The interrupted frontal stria and the colour of the elytra are peculiar to this species amongst those at present known.

Hab. Abyssinia. In the British Museum and my own collection.

Epitoxus ascinus, sp. n.

Rotundatus, convexus, niger, nitidus; fronte plana, stria antice utrinque sinuosa; pronoto ante scutellum biarcuatim impresso disco lævi lateribus parce punctato; elytris striis 1-4 et suturali integris, 2 posterioribus basi arcuatim junctis, 5 in medio abbreviata; propygidio pygidioque parce punctatis; prosterno bistriato; mesosterno marginato, stria transversa haud crenulato; tibiis anticis 8-denticulatis.

L. $2\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

This species closely resembles *breviusculus*, Mars. The

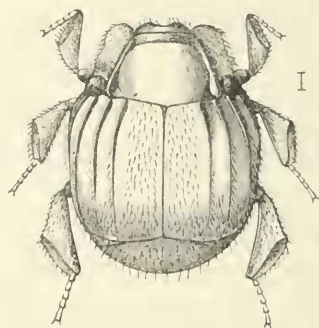
frontal stria, however, is not circular, the disc of the thorax is smooth, the pygidia are less closely punctured, the mesosternum is more finely marginate, and the transverse stria is not crenulate; the metasternum has a few punctures at the base placed transversely near the coxæ.

E. brevisculus, Mars. (which has a wide distribution from the Cape to the Congo River), has the transverse mesosternal stria finely yet markedly crenulate; but Marseul did not refer to it. The sutural stria in both species joins the fourth dorsal at the base.

Hab. Congo River.

Heterius carinistrius, Lew. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.
ser. 8, vol. xii. p. 85 (1913).

I believe that only one example of this American species is known, and it is therefore desirable to give a woodcut of it.



Heterius carinistrius, Lew.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE IX.

- Fig. 1. *Ebonius æquatorius*, Lew.
 Fig. 2. *Hister terreus*, Lew.
 Fig. 3. *Althaus teretrioides*, Lew. 3 a. Tibia.
 Fig. 4. *Megalocœrus rubricatus*, Lew.
 Fig. 5. *Pelorurus carinatus*, Lew.
 Fig. 6. — *costipennis*, Lew. 6 a. Pygidia.
 Fig. 7. — *densistrius*, Lew. 7 a. Pygidia.
 Fig. 8. *Coproœnus opacipennis*, Lew.
 Fig. 9. *Terapus bicarinatus*, Lew.